## REMARKS

Claims 8-18 were pending at the time of the Office Action, with claims 1-7 and 19-26 having previously been withdrawn.

Claim 8 is currently amended.

Claims 27-35 are presently added.

Thus, claims 8-18 and 27-35 are pending.

In this response, filed with a Request for Continued Examination, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of subject application.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 8-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection, and have amended claim 8 to clarify what the claim recites.

Specifically, the Office Action rejects the claims because "[i]t is unclear as to how a single ID can be used for a single computer and yet comprises a plurality of hardware device identifier portions." Applicants have amended claim 8 to clarify this point. Claim 8 is reproduced below for the convenience of the Examiner:

> 8. (Currently Amended) A single computer system identifier (ID) ~~ID~~ for identifying a computer system, the single computer system ID being comprised of a concatenation of a plurality of hardware device identifier portions, the computer system comprising a plurality of components, each component having a unique identifier, wherein the single computer-system ID is stored on the computer system and is generated during the installation of a software product on the computer system, wherein the single computer system ID comprises the

> concatenation of the ~~a~~ plurality of hardware device identifier portions, each hardware device identifier portion associated with a single component of the computer system wherein the single computer system ID represents the computer system plurality of components and wherein the single computer system ID comprises a variable number of bits corresponding to the ability to differentiate multiple computer systems based on a particular component having a unique identifier, wherein the particular component is one of the plurality of components.

Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to consider the second and third lines of the claim where the claim now recites "the single computer system ID being comprised of a concatenation of a plurality of hardware device identifier portions." Applicants submit that the single computer system ID can be used for a single computer yet comprises a plurality of hardware devices because the single computer system ID comprises a concatenation of hardware device identifier portions. As previously recited in claim 8, "the single computer system ID represents the computer system plurality of components" with "each hardware device identifier portion associated with a single component of the computer system." Applicants submit that this clarification should resolve the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claim 8 was rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,866,769 to Karp (Karp) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,867,730 to Leyda (Leyda). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The combination of Karp and Leyda fails to recite the limitations of claim 8. Claim 8 is once again reproduced below for the convenience of the Examiner:

> 8. (Currently Amended) A single computer system identifier (ID) ~~ID~~ for identifying a computer system, the single computer system ID being comprised of a concatenation of a plurality of hardware device identifier portions, the computer system comprising a plurality of components, each component

> having a unique identifier, wherein the single computer-system ID is stored on the computer system and is generated during the installation of a software product on the computer system, wherein the single computer system ID comprises the concatenation of the ~~a~~ plurality of hardware device identifier portions, each hardware device identifier portion associated with a single component of the computer system wherein the single computer system ID represents the computer system plurality of components and wherein the single computer system ID comprises a variable number of bits corresponding to the ability to differentiate multiple computer systems based on a particular component having a unique identifier, wherein the particular component is one of the plurality of components.

Specifically, applicants submit that the references fail to teach at least three limitations of claim 8.

First neither Karp nor Leyda teach that the computer system ID is "generated during the installation of a software product on the computer system." The Office Action relies on the abstract of Karp for teaching this limitation. However, the abstract describes the use of "a unique ***identification (ID) stored in read only memory (ROM) of a personal computer*** in which the software on a diskette is to be used." (Karp, abstract; emphasis added). Clearly, if Karp uses an ID that is stored in ROM of a personal computer, the ID represents a pre-existing value stored in the computer before the software is installed. Thus, Karp fails to teach or suggest even a possibility that the ID is "generated during installation of a software product on the computer system."

Second, neither Karp nor Leyda teach "the single computer system ID being comprised of a concatenation of a plurality of hardware device identifier portions." The abstract of Karp on which the Office Action relies neither teaches nor suggests anything about the nature of the ID stored in the ROM of the computer system. Accordingly, Karp fails to teach or suggest that the ID may include "a concatenation of a plurality of hardware device identifier portions." In fact, the Office Action later concedes that Karp neither teaches nor suggests a "computer system

comprising a plurality of components." Clearly, if Karp admittedly does not teach or suggest a computer system including a plurality of components, Karp cannot teach or suggest an ID "comprised of a concatenation of a plurality of hardware device identifier portions" representing a plurality of components. Thus, Karp fails to teach or suggest this limitation.

Third, Leyda fails to make up for the shortcomings of Leyda in disclosing "the computer system comprising a plurality of components, each component having a unique identifier." Leyda only describes operating using an identifier for a single component, a single CD-ROM drive." Nothing in Leyda, in either the abstract or Column 6, Lines 35-54, cited by the Examiner addresses a ***plurality of components in which each of the components has a unique identifier***. Thus, Leyda does not make up for the admitted shortcoming of Karp.

Because Karp and Leyda, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest any of these limitations, the references fail to support a *prima facie* obviousness rejection. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn against claim 8.

Claims 9-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Karp in view of Leyda, combined with a series of other references. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claims 9-18 depend from and apply additional limitations to claim 8. Claim 8, as described recites a computer system ID that is comprised of a concatenation of a plurality of different hardware device identifier portions. Karp, as admitted by the Office Action, does not address a computer system having a plurality of components. Leyda only addresses a piece of information about a single component. Accordingly, Karp and Leyda do not even suggest a

system in which a computer system ID would be comprised of identifier portions for each of a plurality of components.

Consequently, applicants submit that no one or ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made could have used the other cited references to reach what is recited by claims 9-18. None of the additional references, even if combined with Karp and Leyda, teach or suggest what is recited by claims 9-18 because even combining any of these references still fails to teach or suggest what is recited by claim 8 from which each depends.

For example, in relying on U.S. Patent No. 5,646,992 to Subler (Subler), the Office Action relies on claim 1 which describes "controlling access to a subset of items arbitrarily selected" using encryption keys. (Subler, Claim 1). Respectfully, Subler teaches nothing about generating a computer system identifier as recited by claim 8, let alone any aspects that are recited in claims depending from claim 8.

Similarly, in relying on U.S. Patent No. 6,480,925 to Bodo (Bodo), the Office Action relies on a passage describing the assignment of SCSI ID bits to a disk drive using "removable electrical jumpers." (Bodo, Column 5, Lines 25-35). Again, Bodo teaches nothing about generating a computer system identifier as recited by claim 8, let alone additional aspects that are recited in claim 9-18 that depend from claim 8.

For further example, in relying on U.S. Patent No. 5,491,813 to Bondy (Bondy), the Office Action relies on a passage that describes reading the ID of a display adapter. (Bondy, Column 6, Lines 6-17). Once again, Bodo only teaches about reading a single ID from a hardware device; Bondy teaches nothing about generating a computer system ID.

The additional references listed do nothing other than mention different types of computer components that may be associated with IDs. However, because neither Kamp nor Leyda teach what is recited by claim 8, and none of these other references make up for that shortcoming, none of the references teach or suggest what is recited in claim 8 as modified by any of the limitations recited in claims 9-18. With all due respect, the listing of these additional references appear as nothing more than an attempt, in hindsight, to include references that use the same terms found in claims 9-18. Nonetheless, they fail to teach or suggest what is recited in claims 9-18, let alone make up for the shortcomings of Karp and Leyda in teaching or suggesting what is recited in claim 8 from which claims 9-18 depend. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn against claims 9-18.

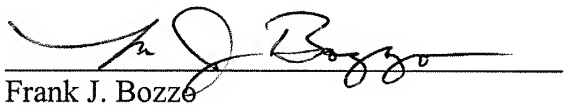
In this response, applicants submit new claims 27-35 that are patentably distinguishable over art in the field, and certainly distinguish over the references cited. Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of new claims 27-35 in addition to requesting reconsideration and allowance of claims 8-18.

## CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.



Frank J. Bozzo
Registration No. 36,756
Direct Dial: 206.342.6294

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P. O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
206.342.6200